SPORTS

Winchester boys win annual Bigelow Tournament to remain undefeated after six games

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

January 1, 2026 . 6:00 AM — 3 min read

Winchester High School boys basketball captains Dawson English, shown above, and Carson Sarpong are setting a good example of leadership for their teammates in the early going, and as a result the Red & Black are undefeated after six games, including winning the annual Bob Bigelow Tournament earlier this week on Dec. 29 and 30. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

Subscribe

Going into the annual Bob Bigelow Tournament at the new Winchester High gym, the Red & Black boys basketball team was 4-0 after defeating Stoneham in the home opener on Dec. 12, 56-54, followed by wins over Melrose (57-52), Woburn (66-53) and Lexington (77-74).

The Bigelow Tournament got underway for the host team on Monday, Dec. 29, against TechBoston Academy, and proceeded to make it five in a row with a 64-33 lopsided victory over the Dorchester public school. The Winchester boys then beat Franklin late in the championship tilt the very next day to secure the title, 46-36.

Coach John Fleming was thrilled with his team's defense in the Bigelow opener.

"Our defense led the way again for us, limiting Tech to just 16 first half points," he said after the game. "We were able to extend the lead in the third quarter with a balanced attack. It was nice to see all 12 boys, who dressed, make some plays, in particular those who came off the bench. They were all terrific. Michael (McDonough) moved the ball around nicely to find his teammates in good spots, while Max (Phillips) rebounded well, and Sam (Christmas) did a great job cutting and finishing plays around the hoop."

Senior captain Dawson English was the team's top scorer against Tech with 12 points. He also had five rebounds. Senior guard Harrison Burbine had a fine, all-around game with 10 points, four assists and four steals. Gibby Ketterer and Christmas accounted for eight points each. Senior captain Carson Sarpong did the dirty work with nine rebounds and two blocks. Phillips pulled down six rebounds, and McDonough picked up six assists.

In the championship game against Franklin, the hometown team prevailed once again, despite it not being an artistic success, according to

Subscribe

Donate today!

"This game was not our prettiest (effort) to date, but once again we did enough to find a way to win," said Fleming. "We were able to get some good looks at the basket, but had difficulty finishing at the rim, as well as capitalizing on open three-point shots. But the good news was that our defense was pretty locked-in. We held Franklin to just 13 halftime points, and then only nine in the fourth quarter. We got on a mini run in the second half that helped separate us from (the Panthers)."

Fleming specifically singled out Burbine, the tournament MVP, afterwards for getting out in transition to make plays. The coach also mentioned that Sarpong got in foul trouble, but Declan Ross came in for him and played really well.

"(Ross) also did some good things (in Monday's game against Tech), but this one against Franklin was his best (effort) of the season," the veteran coach added. "Overall, we got good defense and some rebounding that led to a (clutch) finish."

Harrison was the offensive leader against Franklin with 17 points. Dawson, who made the all-tournament team, was next in line with 15.

Early season recaps

In the opener against the Spartans, Sarpong turned in a fine all-around performance with nine points, four blocks and 12 rebounds. Burbine was the team's top gun in this game with 23 points, while also coming up with five steals and seven rebounds. English chipped in with 10 points. Junior guard Devon Ryan ended up with nine points and five thefts.

Subscribe

The Red & Black then began a new week on the road against Mel
Dec. 16. English and Burbine led the way on offense with 16 and 15 points,

respectively. Burbine, the backcourt specialist, also factored into the win with seven rebounds, four assists and five steals. Junior forward Jonathan Cutler was credited with seven points. Sarpong blocked two shots.

The Winchester boys then traveled to Woburn to face the Tanners on Dec. 19, where English powered the attack with 30 points and six steals. Burbine netted 17 points. Sarpong was the team's defensive star with 14 rebounds and two steals.

Following their third straight win, the Red & Black came home to get ready for Lexington on Dec. 22, the last game before the Christmas break.

English paced the attack against the Minutemen with 24 points. He also dished out five assists. Burbine was next in line with 21 points to go along with four steals. Sarpong accounted for nine points and nine rebounds. Senior guard Adam Fiorentino poured in nine points, while Ryan grabbed seven rebounds.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News in November 2024.

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter. Copyright 2025 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with written permission only.

Related

Subscribe

SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

March 3, 2026

SPORTS

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

February 28, 2026

SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoc English, Sarpong, Bu Middlesex League elite

Subscribe

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

February 27, 2026

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

February 26, 2026

Latest

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

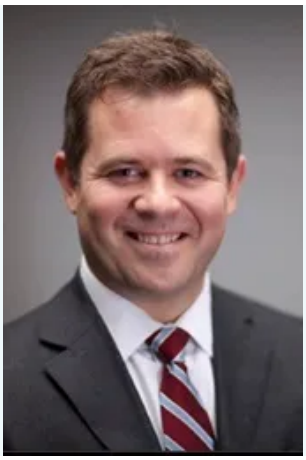
EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

Subscribe



NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

Subscribe

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe